

Requirements for a Secondary Education Minor in German

Student's Name: _____

Advisor: _____

The Secondary Education minor in German is designed for students seeking certification to teach German in grades 6-12. It provides a solid foundation in language proficiency, as well as cultural, literary, linguistic, and professional knowledge.

Students minoring and planning for certification in German are required to complete at least 27 hours *beyond* GER 202, including:

____ GER 301 - Composition Credits: 3 cr.

____ GER 302 - Conversation Credits: 3 cr.

____ GER 314 - Secondary Foreign Language Teaching Methods: 3 cr.

____ GER 341 - Advanced German Grammar: 3 cr.

____ GER 322 – Introduction to German Linguistics: 3 cr.

____ one literature course, selected from GER 303/304/401/402: 3 cr.

____ one culture course, selected from GER 311/312/315: 3 cr.

Elective Requirement. Two additional elective courses, selected from the literature, culture, or linguistics (GER 321/421) categories, or from study abroad (GER 385/386 or study-abroad courses from non-GVSU programs): 6 cr. Complete **two** in any of the following:

Culture Category (Do not duplicate from above)

- ____ GER 303 – Introduction to German Literature I
- ____ GER 311 – German Civilization and Culture II
- ____ GER 312 – Contemporary German Culture
- ____ GER 315 – German Cinema

Literature Category (Do not duplicate from above)

- ____ GER 303 – Introduction to German Literature I
- ____ GER 304 – Introduction to German Literature II
- ____ GER 401 – Modern German Literature
- ____ GER 402 – German Authors

Linguistics Category

- ____ GER 321 – Phonetics
- ____ GER 421 – History of the German Language

Study Abroad

- ____ GER 385 – German Language
- ____ GER 386 – German Culture and Society

Because teacher candidates in German need to meet the state requirement of at least Advanced-Low in oral proficiency through an official Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) *before* admission to the College of Education, **German minors interested in teacher certification are required to study abroad for at least one semester (12-15 credits at the 300-level) in a German-language study abroad program. Program must be approved prior to study abroad by an advisor from the German Department and can be used to fulfill minor requirement courses.** For students who are unable to complete this requirement due to familial, financial, or other concerns, alternatives do exist. Meet with a German advisor as soon as possible to discuss your coursework and plan study abroad.

Requirements for German Education Students

Michigan Department of Education (2004) Standards for Foreign Language Teachers:

Teacher candidates must demonstrate a proficiency level of *advanced-low* in all four skill levels. This applies to major and minors.

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking - assessed via Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

The MTTC covers six areas: listening comprehension, writing proficiency, reading proficiency, grammar and language comparisons, pedagogy, and culture. The MTTC should not be taken until you have completed 90% of your content area course work.

What does Advanced-low proficiency look like?

Advanced-level proficiency requires that students are able to participate in most informal conversations and a variety of formal conversations on topics related to school, home, leisure activities, work, and current events. They are able to narrate and describe in the past, present, and future in paragraph length discourse (combining and linking sentences). They are also able to discuss some abstract topics and support some opinions (characteristics of the superior level).

Study abroad is strongly encouraged for all Education students. Research has shown that study abroad for *at least one semester* is necessary if students expect to reach the Advanced Low level of oral proficiency. University foreign language majors who have not lived in a country where the language of study is a majority language tend to finish their degree with an intermediate high level of proficiency (Swender, 2001).

What is the OPI?

The OPI was designed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). It is a recorded "interview" which is double-rated; individuals can take the OPI either on the phone or via the computer. The structure of the OPI is as follows:

- 5-minute warm-up
- "cycles" based on a variety of topics, with steadily increasing levels of difficulty
- Brief role play
- Wind down

OPIc (computerized version) - \$65

Telephone version - \$134

Advanced level check - \$90

When should I take the OPI?

It is highly recommended that students complete a practice OPI before signing up for the actual test.

We also advise that students take the OPI as soon as possible upon returning from a study abroad.

To sign up for an OPI contact Autumn Gorsline-Davis gorslina@gvsu.edu 331-8554